

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 226018
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-05 /051 R

DRAFTED BY HA/HR:EOJONES
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA: WMATHEWS
ARA/RPP - COL. QUIGG (PHONE)
DOD/OSD/ISA/IA - D. QUANT (INFO)
ARA/CEN - MR. KNIGHT (PHONE)

-----126641 071025Z /20

R 062119Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NI, SHUM, MASS

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED U.S. ARMY
OFFICER DAVID SIMONS BY GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA

1. COL. DAVID SIMONS, USA (RETIRED), CURRENTLY RESIDING
IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE RECENTLY APPROACHED DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS TO REPORT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA
THROUGH PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S SON, HAS OFFERED HIM A JOB AS
"HUMAN RIGHTS" ADVISOR TO THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT.
OFFER WAS ALLEGEDLY MADE DURING AUGUST VISIT BY COL.
SIMONS TO NICARAGUA DURING AN AUTO TRIP FROM PANAMA CANAL
ZONE TO UNITED STATES. SIMONS SAYS HE GOT TO KNOW MANY
NICARAGUANS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SOMOZA, DURING HIS
ASSIGNMENT TO NICARAGUA IN 1972 AS COMMANDER OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY TROOPS SENT TO AID GON AFTER EARTH-
QUAKE DISASTER. SIMONS LAST ASSIGNMENT WAS, HE REPORTS,
COMMANDER OF "FOURTH AIRBORNE DISASTER RELIEF BRIGADE" IN
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CANAL ZONE. WE HAVE DONE SOME CHECKING WITH DOD AND
AMONG OFFICERS STATIONED IN CANAL ZONE AT THAT TIME BUT
HAVE NOT YET TURNED UP ANYBODY WHO KNOWS SIMONS PERSONALLY.

2. SIMONS STATED TO DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT HE IS
SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THIS OFFER FURTHER WITH NICARAGUAN
OFFICIALS IN MID SEPTEMBER HIS RETURN TRIP TO PANAMA. HE

SAID THAT AS A RETIRED OFFICER HE IS REQUIRED TO SEEK THE PERMISSION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND THROUGH THAT OFFICE THE SECRETARY OF STATE BEFORE HE CAN ACCEPT A POSITION WITH A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. HIS SPECIFIC REASON FOR CONSULTING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, HE SAID, WAS TO ASK THAT HIS APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION BE "CLASSIFIED" BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT HIS LIFE WOULD BE ENDANGERED SHOULD OPPONENTS OF THE GON LEARN THAT HE IS CONTEMPLATING SUCH EMPLOYMENT WITH THE GON.

3. A DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL HAS RESPONDED TO COL. SIMONS AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN ONLY "CLASSIFY" DOCUMENTS ON THE BASIS OF A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY THE APPLICATION HE REFERS TO WOULD NOT FALL IN THAT CATEGORY. HOWEVER, HE WAS ASSURED THAT ANY SUCH APPLICATION WOULD BE HANDLED WITH THE DISCRETION ACCORDED ANY PERSONNEL MATTER.

-- WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT QUESTIONS THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MIGHT POSE IN SENDING COL. SIMONS' APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE BUT THAT, IF THE DEPARTMENT WERE ASKED TO ENDORSE OR APPROVE COL. SIMONS' APPLICATION TO ACCEPT THE EMPLOYMENT DESCRIBED BY THE NICARAGUAN CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD PROBABLY WITHHOLD SUCH ENDORSEMENT OR APPROVAL AT LEAST UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES;

4. COL. SIMONS AGREED TO CALL AT THE EMBASSY IN MANAGUA PRIOR TO ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS TO GO OVER THE ENTIRE MATTER WITH DCM TUCKER. IF COL. SIMONS DOES CALL AT THE EMBASSY, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY COMMENTS AND IMPRESSIONS.

5. FOR SOUTHCOM: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE WHICH BEARS ON THIS MATTER, INCLUDING YOUR COMMENTS, IF ANY, ON THE ADVISABILITY OF COL. SIMONS' PURSUING THIS GON EMPLOYMENT OFFER. CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 226018
ORIGIN ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 /021 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN:DKNIGHT

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

HA/HR:EOJONES (PHONE)

-----022208 090736Z /13

R 081800Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226018

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 226018 SENT ACTION MANAGUA 06 SEP 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226018

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, HUMAN RIGHTS, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: EOJONES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1527789
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED U.S. ARMY OFFICER DAVID SIMONS BY GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, NI, US, (SIMONS, DAVID)
To: MANAGUA
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
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20 Mar 2014
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